

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 09450 100632Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /056 W  
-----064326 100639Z/10

R 100543Z AUG 77  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6152  
INFO CINCPAC  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PROP, CH, TW, US  
SUBJECT: LOCAL PRO-PRC PRESS REACTION TO WOLFF PLEBISCITE  
PROPOSAL

1. AS EXPECTED, THE LOCAL PRO-PRC "NEW EVENING POST"  
HAS RESPONDED TO REPRESENTATIVE LESTER WOLFF'S SUGGESTION  
THAT A PLEBISCITE BE HELD TO ASCERTAIN THE PREFERENCE OF  
THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN ON NORMALIZATION. THE PAPER SAID THIS  
IS JUST ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF HOW "A FEW FOREIGNERS" ARE  
TRYING TO "SPLIT CHINA" AND ASKED WHAT THE REACTION WOULD  
BE IF CHINA PROPOSED A VOTE IN HAWAII OR ALASKA, SUPERVISED  
BY THE SOVIETS, ON WHETHER THESE STATES WISHED TO REMAIN  
IN THE UNION OR BECOME INDEPENDENT. THE COMMENTARY GOES  
ON TO SAY WOLFF'S SUGGESTION IS HALF A CENTURY TOO LATE -  
IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE BEFORE THE 1940'S WHEN TAIWAN WAS  
A JAPANESE COLONY. NOW, AFTER THE ISLAND HAS BEEN  
"RETURNED" TO CHINA BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT, IT IS  
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A MATTER FOR THE 8-900 MILLION PEOPLE OF CHINA TO  
DECIDE, NOT JUST TAIWAN'S 16 MILLION. WOLFF'S  
PROPOSAL IS SEEN AS EVIDENCE THAT PEKING NEEDS TO  
CONTINUE TO HAMMER AWAY AT ITS OFTEN REPEATED  
OPPOSITION TO VARIOUS "TWO CHINAS, ONE CHINA ONE  
TAIWAN, ONE CHINA TWO GOVERNMENTS" PLOTS.

2. COMMENT: WHILE WOLFF'S SUGGESTION OF A PLEBISCITE MAY STRIKE RESPONSIVE CHORDS IN THE U.S. OR PERHAPS AMONG SOME TAIWANESE, IT IS UNDOUBTEDLY ANTHEMA TO CHINESE LEADERS IN BOTH PEKING AND TAIPEI. (FAIRBANK MAKES A SIMILAR POINT IN HIS JULY 27 "NEW YORK TIMES" ARTICLE.) THE "NEW EVENING POST'S" DELAYED RESPONSE - TWO DAYS AFTER THE NEWS WAS CARRIED IN THE LOCAL ENGLISH PRESS - MAY INDICATE UNCERTAINTY ON HOW TO REACT UNTIL GUIDANCE WAS PROVIDED BY PEKING. IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THE FOCUS WAS SHIFTED AWAY FROM THE SELF-DETERMINATION ISSUE INTO STANDARD PRC DEMANDS FOR NON-INTERFERENCE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS. WE EXPECT THE ISSUE WILL BE DROPPED UNLESS IT IS RAISED BY OTHER U.S. LEADERS. ONE LOCAL PRO-KMT PAPER CARRIED THE STORY AS A NEWS FEATURE WITHOUT COMMENT.

CROSS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTIONS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT  
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**Decapton Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977HONGK09450  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LOCAL PRO-PRC PRESS REACTION TO WOLFF PLEBISCITE PROPOSAL  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PROP, PDEV, CH, TW, US, (WOLFF)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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